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spirit matchday

official matchday program

inside:
scott thomas profile

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contents

In your latest issue of Spirit Matchday you will find:

Page 4	Read Graham Arnold's views on another Spirit victory - this time over the Football Kingz last Friday at NSO.
Page 6/7	Spirit Matchday talks to new signing Scott Thomas.
Page 8	Today's squads.
Page 9	A look at our opposition - Newcastle United.
Page 10	Latest Spirit supporters club news.
Page 11	Mark Fowler looks at Spirit's first home win of the season against the Football Kingz last Friday night.
Pg 12/13	Poster - Chi Chi Mendez
Pg 14	Spirit round-up
Pg 15	Win! A trip for two flying with the team when Spirit take on Carlton in Melbourne on December 3.
Pages 16/17	Want a quick quiz? Wordsearches? Then go to our kids pages and try your luck!
Pages 18/19	Find out the latest on the injury to new boy Noel Spencer and how he is settling in at the Spirit.
Page 20	Player profile - Last week's hat-trick hero Ben Burgess tells us what he REALLY likes.
Pages 22	See how Spirit's Youth Team are faring so far this season.

And much much more - but only in issue 3 of your very own Northern Spirit matchday programme - Spirit Matchday!

coach's column

The last two weeks has given us a lot of heart as we strive to make an impact on the 2000/01 National Soccer League.

Our 2-0 victory over Eastern Pride at one of the National Soccer League's real graveyards was a great result, but I wanted us to do it in front of our own fans and on Friday night we did just that.

Right from the start of the match we went out there to play football. It was fantastic to see us knock the ball around but have purpose and direction in attack.

Ben's hat trick was unbelievable but he had plenty of help from the players around him. Alex Moreira was exceptional, as was Troy Cranney and Michael Cunico.

When we went forward we had several options, through the midfield and also down the flanks and the two guys up front were tremendous.

While Ben received all the glory for scoring three goals, and he certainly deserved them, I also believe Alex's input was just as important.

Alex was involved in Ben's second and third goals and he threw himself around all night.

I believe the two of them have combined brilliantly so far and they are exactly what we have been missing in the first two years.

We have never struggled to create

chances and now we have two players who can slot it home, and cause problems on their own, we look like moving forward.

It was also great to see Scott Thomas make his debut for Northern Spirit when he replaced me at half time against the Kingz.

Tonight we come to the Central Coast for the second time but this time we travel north knowing it will be an annual event.

Last season Northern Spirit dipped its toe in the water at North Power Stadium to see what reception we received and we were more than happy with the way we were treated on the Central Coast.

This area is a massive soccer area and we want to do everything we can to help foster the sport on the Central Coast.

We will also play Canberra at North Power Stadium on January 6 and we hope to see you all back here on that night as we try to extract revenge on the Cosmos, who defeated us in Gosford last year.

I hope you enjoy the match and enjoy the Northern Spirit experience!

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profile scott thomas

The Spirit's fine 4-2 win over the Football Kingz last Friday night was significant for a number of players, with Ben Burgess grabbing his first senior goals for the club, Alex Moreira turning in a superb performance and the likes of Michael Cunico and Troy Cranney being simply outstanding.

For Scott Thomas though, who made his club debut as a substitute at half-time, it ended a injury-hit start to his Northern Spirit career, after first an ankle, and then a knee, injury ruled him out of the first three games of the season.

"It's always disappointing when you are injured," said Thomas, "and especially when you are trying to make an impression at a new club. It can be more of a mental thing than anything as you feel down when you can't get out there and play, but I guess that's what happens when you are involved in sport."

Thomas, who is now working his way towards full match fitness, was ready and waiting to make his debut after coach Graham Arnold told him to be prepared.

"It wasn't a planned substitution or anything, but Arnie did tell me to be aware that I could get on at any stage, and to keep warm."

The injury apart Thomas says he is settling in well at the Spirit.

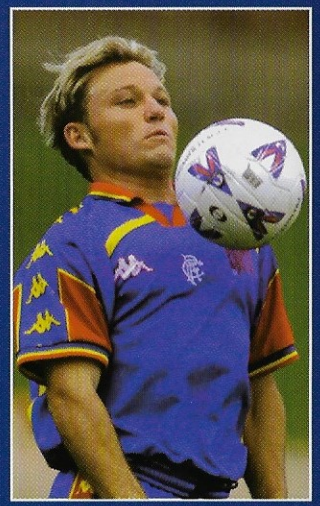
"Yeah it's good - I am really happy at the club and am looking forward to helping them do well. It's an awesome set-up, and there is a real good atmosphere at the club."

Tonight's game has extra significance for Thomas, who not only played some of his junior football in Newcastle, but also made his NSL debut for Newcastle as well.

Asked if he remembers much of his debut, Thomas pauses. "It was against West Adelaide...I think!"

Last week's win has given the club another boost, with Thomas saying how important it was now that the club had two guys up-front that could knock goals in.

"If you don't score you don't win matches, and that's probably been Spirit's problem, particularly last season. But now with Alex and Ben, who did really well on Friday, looking sharp it makes it so much easier. Obviously if you don't score then you don't win matches."



The former Adamstown Rosebuds State League player says one of the main reasons he moved to Spirit is to try and help them recreate that first season experience. It's an experience Thomas knows better than most, as he lined up for Sydney Olympic on Spirit's historical first-ever NSL game.

"The atmosphere that night was just quality. Spirit always seemed to get a good crowd and there were always lots of families around. Obviously that dropped off last year, but I really want to help bring back those crowds and get that same sort of crowd involvement they used to have."

An NSL career has taken Thomas so far from Newcastle to Northern Spirit via West Adelaide and Sydney Olympic, and the midfielder admits that he still enjoys the game as much as ever.

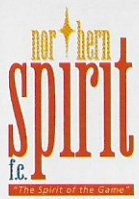
"I really enjoy just getting out there and playing, and also having a laugh with the boys. That for me is what it's all about."

Thomas says he has taken positives from all the coaches he has worked with so far, and that his aim this year is quite simply to win the Championship with the Spirit.

Eventually, like most players, Thomas would love a crack at playing overseas. He could come up against the likes of David Beckham, ("Quality") Kevin Phillips and Leeds pair Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell, all players Thomas nominates as ones he admires.

The 26-year old midfielder though is only looking as far ahead as this season - and hopefully will be celebrating tonight against one of his former clubs.

TODAY'S SQUADS



1	John Perosh	Bob Catlin	1
2	Michael Cunico	James Kemp	2
3	Matthew Langdon	Andrew Roberts	3
4	Matthew Bingley	Chris Zoricich	4
5	Mark Rudan	Todd McManus	5
6	Scott Thomas	Glenn Sprod	6
7	Robbie Slater	Travis Dodd	7
8	Robbie Enes	Mark Wilson	8
9	Alex Moreira		9
10	Gabriel Mendez	John Buonavoglia	10
11	Troy Cranney	Peter Tsekenis	11
12	Ben Burgess		12
13	Phil Moss	Bradley Wieczovek	13
14	Noel Spencer	Anthony Surjan	14
15	Tony Perinich	Damien Smith	15
16	Simon Catanzaro	Vasco Trpcevski	16
17	Paul Bilokapic	Esala Masi	17
18	Daniel Watkins	Andrew Harper	18
19	Ryan Griffiths	Daniel McBreen	19
20	Paul Henderson	Bradley Swancott	20
21	Adam Griffiths	Peter Juchniewicz	21
22	Jacek Sobczyk	Joshua Ferguson	22
23	Adam Snyder	Joshua Rufo	23
24	Tony Faria	COACH: Lee Sterrey	
28	Ian Crook		
30	Graham Arnold		
COACH: Graham Arnold			

opposition lowdown

It can only be described as being a turbulent start to the season for Newcastle United. After uncertainty as to where they were going to play, or even if there would be a club at all in the region, it was announced that Newcastle United would play out of Marathon Stadium.

On the field things haven't been much easier, with a string of injuries hitting a small squad and results not yet going the way of Newcastle.

In fact, United is bottom of the table after four rounds, with just a solitary point to show for their efforts, and they have already suffered a 5-1 defeat in New Zealand by the Kingz. Last week they went down 2-0 at home to the Parramatta Power, and they will be desperate here tonight at North Power Stadium to add to their meagre points tally.

With Andy Harper and Damien Smith still out injured Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey will be choosing a team from the following players:

Bob Catlin started his first game of the season in goal against the Power last week, but he was replaced through injury midway through the second half by Bradley Swancott. Swancott started the season in the absence of Catlin and could play tonight if the experienced custodian doesn't recover in time.

Andy Roberts should line up in defence as he has done many times for the Breakers, and he should be joined by Todd McManus and new signing Chris Zoricich.

In midfield Mark Wilson, like Roberts and McManus, has played over 100 games for the club, and alongside him recently has been Travis Dodd and Peter Tsekenis.

Brad Wieczorek provides the team with some good width, while up-front, in the absence of Harper, Spirit will have to watch the speed of Johnny Buonavoglia and Esala Masi.

Anthony Surjan, another new signing to a team that lost Shane Pryce, Greg Owens and Glenn Moore from last season, makes up a likely starting XI. Young striker Daniel McBreen has come off the bench recently, along with Vasco Trpcevski as United has tried to find their way back into games without success.

Coach Lee Sterrey, in his third season in charge, has done a marvellous job to date, guiding Newcastle last season to the edge of the play-offs. Despite the team's poor start this season Sterrey will know there is a long way to go, and three points against Spirit tonight would help go some way towards starting his team's move up the table.

fan's view

with Rebecca Carey

One of the away games we are trying to get a good attendance to this season is the return leg against the Kingz FC. After a great reception by the Kingz fans last season (it was great to finally hear some original chants!), and a great attendance by their visiting fans last week, we are looking to take a large crowd over.

To make it even more important to get a large crowd there, the Kingz Supporters have challenged the Spirit Supporters to a game of Football, and the Kingz management have allowed the game to be played before the main game on the pitch as the official entertainment. It could be more entertaining than they think! Going over to Auckland to support the boys in the new year is a good starting point for a weekend break on the North Island as we found out last season, with a tour of the area the next day.

With a group the airfare can be brought down to $350 for a return flight (accommodation more depending on the length of time staying).

Start saving for the trip and if you are interested in one of the best away trips of last season, please contact Julian Floyd via the Committee Info line, or the email address listed below.

Fans can contribute to the program by writing for this Fan's View page.

Submissions can be made either via e-mail at the address listed below, or by contacting us on the Committee Info Line listed below and arranging to meet before a game.

Additional information about travel details and events can be found on the Committee Information line, and messages can also be left on this service for the Committee. The phone number is: (02) 8250 4004

Alternatively information can be found on the Supporters Committee Web site, which is regularly updated : www.spiritfans.com and e-mails can be sent to the Committee via the address below : nsfc98@yahoo.com

The Committee members are :

Antony Bross	Web Site
Tony Calder	Committee Database and Infoline
Rebecca Carey	Committee Treasurer and Event organiser
Julian Floyd	Away Travel (Bus and interstate) and Interclub Liason
Chris Wainwright	Hill Representative
Vacant	McCartney Representative
Vacant	O`Reilly Representative

If you or someone you know is interested in the vacant positions on the Committee, please contact us using the details above.

match report

with Mark Fowler

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2000

Northern Spirit	4	(Burgess 23, 30, 35, Mendez pen 65)
Kingz FC	2	(Vicelich 41, Ngata pen 76)

North Sydney Oval

A hat-trick in just 12 minutes by teenage striker Ben Burgess made it two wins out of two for the Spirit against the Kingz FC last Friday night.

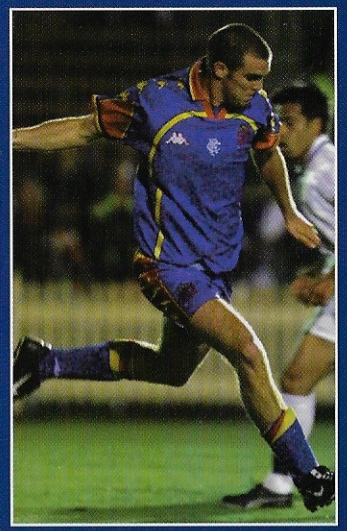
Playing at North Sydney Oval on a threatening night the Spirit took the lead after a bright Kingz start, with Burgess getting his first. Troy Cranney, who had a fine game, crossed from the left, and Burgess got free of his marker to thump a header past the wrong-footed Kingz goalkeeper Cuello.

After grabbing his first for the club Burgess had to wait just seven minutes for his second, strike-partner Alex Moreira, another player to put in a fine performance, crossing from the right, Burgess sweeping the ball home with some ease.

Five minutes later Moreira again set up Burgess, who drilled the ball past Cuello to make it, amazingly, 3-0 to the Spirit and to Burgess. And all this just days before his 19th birthday too!

Some slack play by Spirit allowed the NSL leading scorer Tim Stevens through on goal, and although his shot was well parried by Paul Henderson the impressive Ivan Vicelich was there to prod the ball over the line.

With a 3-1 lead at the break the Spirit needed to ensure they didn't concede another goal, but the contest was all but over when Cuello, who one could best describe as 'eccentric', felled Matthew Langdon when there seemed little danger. After finally managing to wrestle Moreira away from the ball Mendez slotted the ball home for his second penalty in successive weeks.



The Kingz Paul Urlovic, who came alive in the latter stages of the game, seeing a cracking drive slam against the up-right, and then being brought down in the penalty area. Skipper Harry Ngata made it 4-2 to give the Kingz some respectability on the scoreline.

It could have been much worse though when Cranney picked up a poor clearance by Cuello, but from 35 metres out his lofted effort unluckily hit the post with the goalkeeper back-tracking furiously. But it was always going to be Spirit's night - and a night that Ben Burgess, happily clutching the match ball and a bottle of champagne afterwards, will long remember.

NORTHERN SPIRIT: Henderson, Arnold (Thomas) Cunico, Bingley, Langdon, Slater, Cranney, Enes (Bilokapic) Mendez, Burgess, Moreira (Perinich)

Yellow card: Cunico

Gabriel Mendez

spirit round-up

R4 results

3/11/00	NORTHERN SPIRIT	4-2	Kingz FC
3/11/00	Adelaide City Force	4-3	Eastern Pride
3/11/00	Newcastle United	0-2	Parramatta Power
4/11/00	Marconi Stallions	1-1	South Melbourne
4/11/00	Perth Glory	1-1	Sydney Olympic
4/11/00	Brisbane Strikers	2-2	Canberra Cosmos
5/11/00	Carlton	4-0	Sydney United
5/11/00	Melbourne Knights	1-2	Wollongong Wolves

Next home game - Round 7 24-11-00 NORTHERN SPIRIT Vs Perth Glory 7:30pm North Sydney Oval

R5 draw

10/11/00	Kingz FC vs Adelaide City Force	7.30pm	Ericsson Stadium
11/11/00	Parramatta Power vs Canberra Cosmos	7.30pm	Parramatta Stadium
11/11/00	NORTHERN SPIRIT vs Newcastle United	7.30pm	North Power Stadium
11/11/00	Wollongong Wolves vs Brisbane Strikers	6.30pm	WIN Stadium
12/11/00	South Melbourne vs Melbourne Knights	5.00pm	Bob Jane Stadium
12/11/00	Eastern Pride vs Perth Glory	5.00pm	Mobil Park
12/11/00	Sydney Olympic vs Carlton	6.30pm	Belmore Sports Ground
12/11/00	Sydney United vs Marconi Stallions	4.00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre

2000/01 Competition ladder

POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P	POS	TEAM	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
1	Sydney United	4	3	0	1	6	6	9	9	Melbourne Knights	4	2	0	2	5	7	6
2	Carlton SC	4	2	2	0	9	4	8	10	South Melbourne	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
3	Sydney Olympic	4	2	2	0	6	1	8	11	Perth Glory	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
4	Wollongong Wolves	4	2	2	0	6	4	8	12	Canberra Cosmos	4	1	1	2	6	5	4
5	Northern Spirit	4	2	1	1	7	4	7	13	Brisbane Strikers	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
6	Marconi Stallions	4	2	1	1	4	2	7	14	Adelaide City Force	4	1	0	3	5	11	3
7	Kingz FC	4	2	0	2	9	8	6	15	Eastern Pride	4	0	1	3	5	9	1
8	Parramatta Power	4	2	0	2	6	5	6	16	Newcastle United	4	0	1	3	2	10	1

WIN!!

A trip for two flying with the team to watch Northern Spirit take on Carlton in their Round 8 clash on Sunday, 3rd December at Bob Jane Stadium.

All you have to do is fill in the *coupon below and place your entry in one of the entry boxes inside the gates. There is no limit to the number of entries and the competition runs over the next three home games.

The competition will be drawn at half-time during our Round 7 match against Perth Glory at North Sydney Oval.

The more programmes you buy the more chances you have of winning !!

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Male or Female: _____

Mem. No. (if applicable) _____

*All details must be completed for valid entry

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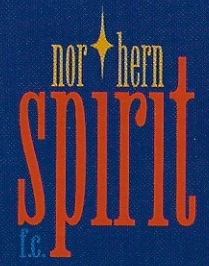

QUICK QUIZZ !!!

See how you go with these five of the best quick questions -

1. True or False - Ben Burgess became the first Spirit player ever to score a hat-trick last Friday night with his three stunners against the Kingz?
2. Which NSW state-league club did Newcastle sign striker John Buonavoglia from?
3. This season's second-top scorer (to date) Tim Stevens from the Kingz was born in which country?
4. Which player made his debut for the Spirit last week?
5. True or False - Newcastle have won just one game from their first four attempts this season?

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Answers: 1 True, 2 Leichhardt Tigers, 3 Australia, 4 Scott Thomas, 5 False - they have drawn one and lost three this season.

WORD SEARCH

Included in this jumble of letters are the surnames of the seven NSL captains listed below. The names can appear in any line - vertically, horizontally or diagonally, and can be backwards or forwards! When you've got all seven NSL captains names, look for a Melbourne-based coach whose name will be left...

NSL captains:

Navin
Mendez
Ngata
Marth
Hooker
Juric
Vidmar

P	N	A	V	I	N	R	R	Q
C	G	B	C	F	C	A	F	W
I	A	F	O	T	M	M	R	H
R	T	S	S	H	E	D	E	M
U	A	E	T	S	N	I	K	E
J	Z	R	M	C	D	V	O	N
N	A	M	K	L	E	U	O	D
M	S	I	N	A	V	C	H	E
S	P	I	R	V	I	D	F	Z

Meet the Mascot

Name: David Greco
Age: 9
From: Collaroy
Favourite Player: Robbie Slater

Answer: Melbourne Knights Coach Vlado VANIS

interview: noel spencer

With midfield star Noel Spencer currently out injured, Spirit Matchday decided to have a chat and see exactly when we can expect him back on the field.

Spirit Matchday: Firstly Noel, how's the injury coming along and what exactly have you done?

Noel Spencer: Yeah it's not too bad thanks. I've had some scans done and it's turned out I have a low-grade stress fracture of the leg.

SM: There's not much you can do other than rest then?

NS: Exactly right. I am doing some training on the bike and swimming- anything that's basically non-weight bearing so I don't aggravate it.

SM: Must be a frustrating time for you two games into a new club?

NS: Most definitely, especially as I played in a loss and a draw. Since I've been out the lads have won two games without me!

SM: The injury apart how are you settling in?

NS: Real good thanks - it's a really good atmosphere among the boys, and some of the boys who have been here a while said it's as good as it ever has been.

SM: So how are you finding the full-time training?

NS: Well coming from Wollongong we maybe trained say three nights a week, and I've come to somewhere now where we are doing maybe eight sessions a week. In fact, it could be the reason I have my injury, as my body isn't used to training so much.

SM: Going back to last season with the Wolves, it must have been a remarkable season for you?

NS: It's hard to put into words exactly how good last season was. I have said to some of the players here that although we won the competition we only had a few outstanding individual players. The rest of it - probably 80% I would say was down simply to teamwork. That's more important than anything else. We also had very few injuries, which helps enormously. We were just tremendously consistent which is what it all boils down to at the end of the season.

SM: You played a big part in the success, playing 30-odd games during the season. Did you feel the pressure towards the end of the season?

NS: Funnily enough no. It might sound silly but I think most of us felt under more pressure when we were playing in the Major Semi Final than the Grand Final itself. We won the home leg against Perth 1-0, but then lost away 2-0. There seemed to be more pressure in those games than in the Grand Final. As for the Final itself, well, what can you say?

SM; You had been with Wollongong all your career up to then?

NS: Yeah, I am a Wollongong boy and came up through their youth teams. I ended up playing some 80-odd games in the first team for them I think (Ed's note: Noel played 79 times and scored 3 goals for the Wolves) before moving up to Sydney this season to play for the Spirit.

SM: So what would be your ambition in football?

NS: In the short term to play regularly for the Spirit and for the club to do well. I guess like most players though, long-term I would love to have a crack at playing overseas.

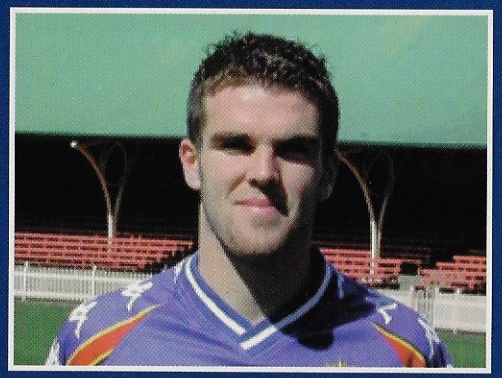
Spirit Matchday thanks Noel Spencer for his time and wishes him all the very best.

bits & pieces

- If selected, popular player Paul Bilokapic will make his 150th NSL appearance tonight against Newcastle.
- Bilokapic had made 145 appearances at the start of the season, including 53 for the Spirit, and has been involved in all four games so far this season.
- Congratulations to Paul on this milestone - lets hope we can celebrate with a win!
- Soccer Australia report that a couple of our former players are having mixed times overseas. With the finish of the Norwegian League last weekend CLAYTON ZANE may be assessing his options for the future...the Molde striker played only sporadically for the first team during the last season.
- Meanwhile LUKE CASSERLY played a full game, as AIK Solna drew 1-1 at home with IF Elfsborg in the last game of the season. AIK finished the competition in third place, and therefore qualify for next season's UEFA Cup.

player profile

After his superb hat-trick last week against the Kingz, Spirit Matchday had no option but to find out what striker Ben Burgess REALLY likes.



Ben Burgess

Nickname:	Big Ben
Height:	6'4"
Weight:	14 stone
Date of Birth:	9.11.81
Place of Birth:	Stockport, Lancashire
Signed from:	Blackburn Rovers (loan)
Previous Clubs:	Everton (Schoolboy)
Position:	Striker
Squad Number:	12

Favourite meal: Spaghetti Carbonara
Favourite drink: Red Bull and Vodka
Favourite band: Mainly dance music
Loudest teammate: At Blackburn it was ex-Liverpool defender Steve Harkness, but they've just sold him now to Sheffield Wednesday.
Worst dresser at club: There's no one that bad at the Spirit, but at Blackburn some of the Scandinavian lads have some dodgy gear!
Best player you've played against: Jamie Redknapp from Liverpool was just in a different class.
Most like to meet (dead or alive): In football probably Ronaldo, but otherwise, being a Manchester City fan, Oasis singer Liam Gallagher.

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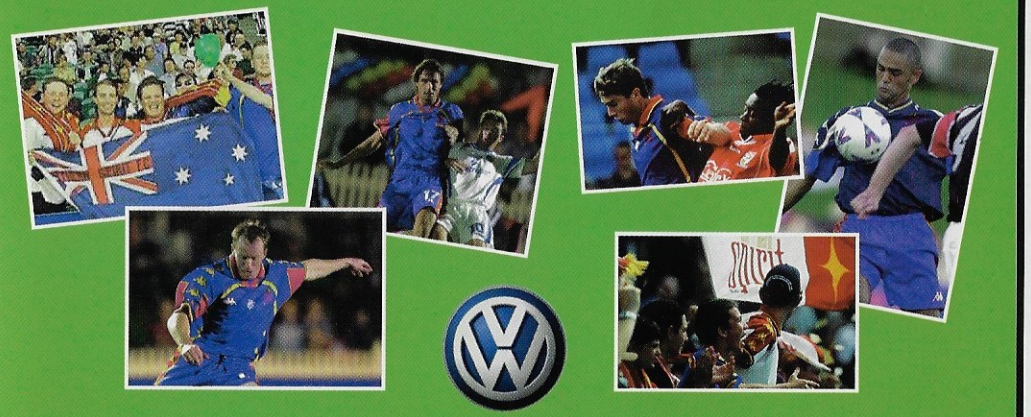
A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN!



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national youth league

Those fans who turned up early last Friday night to watch the Northern Spirit Youth Team were once again rewarded as Ian Crook's men marched on to their fourth straight victory. Goals from Simon Catanzaro, his fifth in four games, and Ryan Griffiths gave Crook's side a 2-0 victory over the New South Wales Institute of Sport team.

It was another success for the Youth Team, who despite Crook's comments that he doesn't care about league position just keep on winning.

"The thing that pleased me most," said Crook, "was that I gave the players instructions out there and they carried them out superbly. They did everything I asked of them and I was delighted with that."

Beaten coach Kelly Cross of the NSWIS said he was happy with his team's efforts, pointing out that his side have already achieved good results against the Newcastle United Youth Team and Sydney Olympic Youth Team despite playing one 14 year old and a couple of 15 year olds.

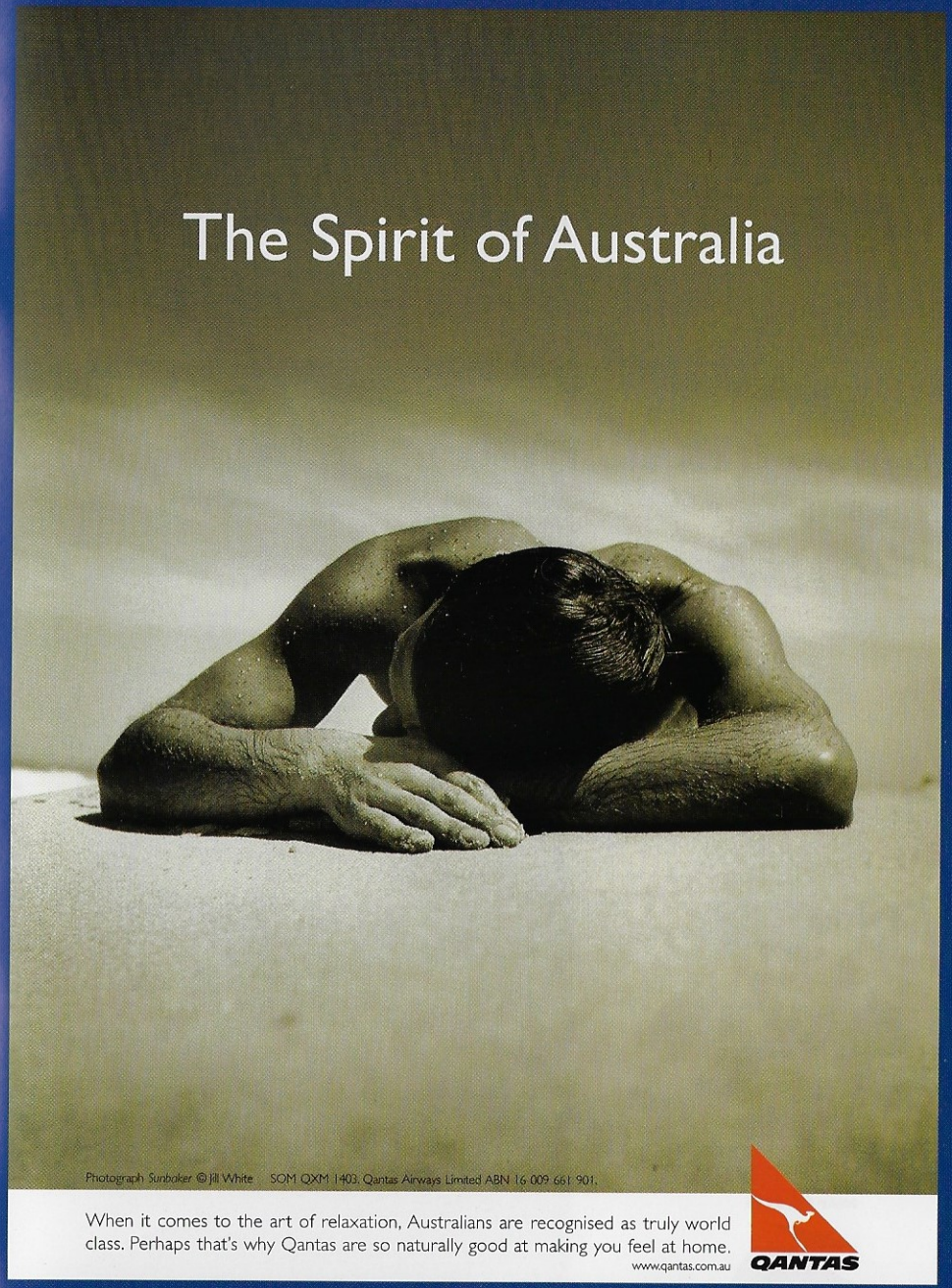
Youth Team results so far:

R1	Sydney United	2	NORTHERN SPIRIT	3
R2	NORTHERN SPIRIT	3	Sydney Olympic	2
R3	Newcaslte United Colts	0	NORTHERN SPIRIT	6
R4	NORTHERN SPIRIT	2	N.S.W.I.S.	0

Forthcoming games:

R5	Saturday 11th November	5:05pm	Home	Newcastle United Youth - North Power Stadium, Gosford
R6	Saturday 18th November	7:00pm	Away	AIS - AIS Soccer Field
R7	Saturday 25th November	4:00pm	Away	ACT Academy - AIS Soccer Field

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2000/2001 NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LADDER

Team	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Spirit	4	4	0	0	0	14	4	12
Marconi Stallions	4	3	1	0	0	7	1	10
A.I.S.	4	3	0	0	1	7	3	9
Wollongong Wolves	3	2	1	1	0	7	0	7
Parramatta Power	4	2	1	0	1	7	4	7
Marconi Stallions Colts	4	2	0	1	2	12	4	6
Q.A.S.	5	2	0	0	3	10	15	6
Sydney Olympic	4	1	1	0	2	7	7	4

Team	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
N.S.W.I.S.	3	1	1	0	1	2	3	4
Sydney United	3	1	0	1	2	6	4	3
Newcastle United	3	1	0	0	2	3	2	3
Canberra Cosmos	3	1	0	1	2	7	10	3
ACT Academy	4	0	0	0	4	3	17	3
Sydney Oly Acdy	4	0	1	0	3	3	9	1
N'castle Utd Colts	2	0	0	0	2	0	9	0